

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 BIB-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01 MC-02

CU-02 ARA-06 /097 W

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R 021740Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1683

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18928

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, SO, ET

SUBJECT: SOVIET-SOMALI RELATIONS: PARTY RELATIONS, ETHIOPIAN
VISIT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 18701, (B) MOSCOW 12705

1. SUMMARY. SOMALI EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY SAYS
SOMALI V. P. ALI SAMANTAR'S TRANSIT STOP IN MOWCOW EN
ROUTE TO HAVANA WAS JUST THAT AND THAT ALI SAMANTAR
ALSO PLANS TO TRANSIT MOSCOW ON RETURN FLIGHT. SOMALI
EMBOFF SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN
CPSU RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALI REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST
PARTY (SRSP) SINCE ALI SAMANTAR'S VISIT IN AUGUST.
HE HINTED AT CONCERN OVER IMPENDING ARRIVAL
IN MOSCOW OF ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION, BUT DID NOT MAKE
CONCERN EXPLICIT. END SUMMARY.

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WM SOMALI EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY ABDURAHMAN MOHAMED HURRE TOLD EMBOFF ON NOV 30 THAT ALI SAMANTAR HAD DEPARTED MOSCOW ON NOVEMBER 29 FOR HAVANA TO TAKE PART IN CEREMONIES ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF CUBAN ARMED FORCES. STOPOVER HERE, SAID HURRE, WAS SIMPLY TO MAKE NECESSARY AIR CONNECTIONS. OTHER THAN COURTESY CALL ON MARSHALL USTINOV (REF A), ALI SAMANTAR HAD HELD MEETINGS WITH NO OTHER SOVIETS. SOVIETS HAD ARRANGED SOME CULTURAL EVENTS AND HAD ESCORTED V. P. AROUND BUT THAT WAS ALL. ALI SAMANTAR PLANNED A SIMILAR STOPOVER ON HIS WAY BACK TO MOGADISCIO FROM HAVANA, SAID HURRE.

3. ASKED ABOUT CONCRETE STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE INCREASED LEVEL AND INTENSITY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CPSU AND THE SRSP CALLED FOR IN THE COMMUNIQUE ON THE CONCLUSION OF ALI SAMANTAR'S MOSCOW VISIT IN AUGUST (REF B), HURRE SAID THAT THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP HAD "CONTINUED" TO DEVELOP BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PARTICULAR SHIFT IN INTENSITY AS A RESULT OF THE V.P.'S VISIT. THE CPSU HAD HELPED THE PRESIDENT SET UP THE SRSP, SAID HURRE, AND THERE HAD BEEN A "NORMAL" INCREASE IN PARTY-TO-PARTY ACTIVITY SINCE THE SRSP WAS ESTABLISHED IN JULY. HE ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO EXCHANGE OF PARTY DELEGATIONS SINCE AUGUST NOR WERE ANY PLANNED FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. NOR WERE THERE CONCRETE PLANS FOR A RETURN VISIT BY ANY OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP TO SOMALIA ALTHOUGH, HURRE AGREED, "LOGICALLY," THERE WOULD BE A RETURN VISIT SOMETIME.

4. HURRE ASKED ABOUT RUMORS THAT AN ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION WOULD VISIT MOSCOW SOON. EMBOFF ADMITTED THAT HE HAD HEARD SUCH RUMORS AND ASKED IF SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE CAUSE FOR SOMALI CONCERN. HURRE SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR RESULTS OF VISIT BEFORE ASSESSING DEGREE OF CONCERN.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY DOES NOT DOUBT THAT SOMALIS ARE GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF EVEN TOKEN SOVIET ARMS SALES TO ETHIOPIANS. POSITIVE
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SOVIET RESPONSE TO ETHIOPIAN REQUEST EXCEEDING TOKEN LEVEL, HOWEVER, IS MORE PROBLEMATIC BECAUSE OF NEGATIVE SOMALI REACTION. WE ALSO SENSE A SOVIET FEELING OF UNEASE ABOUT DURABILITY OF CURRENT ETHIOPIAN REGIME AND ITS ABILITY TO CARRY OUT THE "PROGRESSIVE" PROGRAM WHICH IT HAS ADOPTED. SOVIET MEDIA HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PUT BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA, BUT IT DOES NOT TAKE MUCH READING BETWEEN THE LINES TO ASCERTAIN THAT

MOSCOW SEES TREMENDOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF
THE PMAC'S CONTROL AND PROGRAM IN ETHIOPIA.
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